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STATE FOR NEA/ARPI

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SUBJECT: GOK NOT MUCH TROUBLED BY SADDAM'S PHOTOS ON
BAGHDAD ST., BUT DISMAYED BY BA'ATH PARTY MEETING IN AMMAN

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah told the Ambassador in a meeting August 27 that the recent return of Saddam Hussein's photo to demonstrations of diehard Ba'athists in Baghdad did not concern Kuwait. He suggested this was to be expected from people disenfranchised by the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, "who ran the country like a private farm." Of greater concern to Kuwait was the recent Ba'ath Party meeting in Amman, Jordan, the FM said. By permitting the meeting, the GOJ provided a "media outlet" to known Ba'athist sympathizers like the outspoken journalist, Salah Muqtar, who had participated by video-conference from Sanaa. Kuwait conveyed its "dismay" to the GOJ, the FM noted, but he did not seem entirely satisfied by King Abdullah II's statements expressing concern about the Ba'ath Party meeting.

12. (C) Shaykh Dr. Mohammed also mentioned that the GOK was continuing to pressure its contacts in Iraq to resolve the political situation and stabilize the country. He agreed with the Ambassador's statement that the support of Arab countries was vital to the success of the political process in Iraq. (Note: The Iraqi Foreign and Finance Ministers may be visiting Kuwait next week. End note.)

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LEBARON